



Office of the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator and Health Diplomacy

...Putting Health at the Heart of Foreign Policy

The State Department's Office of the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator and Health Diplomacy (S/GAC) publishes a regular newsletter to keep public diplomacy officers at post informed of health diplomacy news and to share resources that can be used for public diplomacy. We will also highlight news from the field, so please email us at GHD@state.gov and share your news on [Facebook](#) and via [Twitter](#) @GHDatState.

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- Zika, Hootsuite, and Beyond
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- The GHD Speaker Series Continues: *The Right Time Is Now: The Intersection of Health, Advocacy, and Empowerment*
- Stepping up to Empower Adolescent Girls: A New U.S. Global Strategy

World Health Day is April 7!

Do you have plans for celebrating [World Health Day \(WHD 2016\)](#)? While you can highlight any health topic important in your country, the World Health Organization has selected **diabetes** as the focus for this year's WHD. According to the World Health Organization, about **387 million people worldwide** live with diabetes and more than **500 million are expected to do so by 2035**.

Increasing obesity and lack of physical activity are contributing to this emerging global epidemic. To find out more about diabetes and to find **fast facts, posters, a quiz for social media, and key global messages**, visit the [WHO World Health Day page](#). Additional resources with global information can be found on the CDC's Global Diabetes Page as well as at the [International Diabetes Federation](#). For social media resources on the epidemic in the U.S., where 1 in 4 adults live with diabetes, visit the dedicated CDC [Diabetes Social Media Page](#). There you will find infographics, info cards/memes, videos, and podcasts.



Zika and Beyond! New Digital Library with Health Content

With access via Hootsuite, PAS and regional social media coordinators can now access a library of social and digital media content focused on health. Most content is focused on Zika (as curated by OES), but the library will be updated with content covering a broad range of global health topics. For questions or feedback on Zika content, please contact HenryKT@state.gov and for broader health topics please, contact GHD@state.gov.



Nominate a Global Health Hero!

Is there a health activist, scientist, or innovator who is committed to fighting stigma in your host country? How are they doing it? The Office of the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator and Health Diplomacy (S/GAC) will highlight individuals and institutions combating stigma in the health field in our 2017 Health Calendar. Anyone wanting to nominate an individual or institution should send the name, photo, and a paragraph about what their hero is doing to combat stigma to **GHD@State** by **July 31, 2016**. Twelve winners will be featured in the calendar which will be sent to posts in the fall. Additional guidance and suggested social media language to encourage submissions will be sent in the next several weeks. In the meantime, you can read more about stigma and health [by visiting this page](#).



Back row: Richard Donovan, Kathrine Switzer (by Skype), Amb. Janice L. Jacobs, Beth Ann Telford. Front: Ann Cody. Photo credit: Erin Eddy.

Celebrating Advocacy and Women's Empowerment through Sports

In a running start to **Women's History Month**, on February 29, the Office of Global Health Diplomacy hosted the program, "The Right Time Is Now: The Intersection of Health, Advocacy, and Empowerment." The program featured keynote remarks by ultra-runner and event director for the World Marathon Challenge, **Richard Donovan**, who discussed how marathon running can empower individuals from diverse backgrounds. Following his remarks, he was joined on the stage by Paralympian gold medalist and sports diplomat with the State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, **Ann Cody**; **Beth Ann Telford**, Ironman triathlete, ultra-runner, and brain cancer survivor fighting and advocating for a cure by founding [Team BT](#); and finally, joining by Skype from New Zealand, **Kathrine Switzer**. Switzer is an athlete, activist, author, and founder of the

women's empowerment organization, [261 Fearless, Inc.](#) In 1967, Switzer challenged the all-male tradition of the Boston Marathon, becoming the first woman to officially enter and run in the event. Her historic participation gained even greater notice when she was accosted by an angry male runner during the marathon. The experience inspired her to establish 261 Fearless, based on her bib number of the race.

The panelists and audience discussed how sports and running can change lives, and, in particular, empower women and girls. Programs like the 261 Fearless Ambassador program and [Girls on the Run](#) empower women and girls to take control of their health and to take on new challenges. **U.S. Ambassador Janice L. Jacobs**, herself an avid runner, opened the event and the organization Accelerate Brain Cancer Cure (ABC) also supported the program. Watch it on **BNET** by clicking [this link](#).

New U.S. Global Strategy to Empower Adolescent Girls

"Empowered, educated, healthy, and safe adolescent girls possess a better complement of tools to make the transition into adulthood and engage productively in the economy as adults"

— Secretary Kerry



A girl writes on a piece of paper at a school in Kenya. Photo credit: USAID.

On March 15, Secretary Kerry launched the first [U.S. strategy to Empower Adolescent Girls](#). It brings together four government agencies—the Millennium Challenge Corporation, the Peace Corps, the Department of State, and USAID—to address challenges related to adolescent girls' safety, health, and education. A quarter of a billion girls live in poverty. One in three girls in the developing world is married by the time she is 18, and one in nine is married by the age of 15. Every year, millions of girls undergo female genital mutilation/cutting. Millions more live in conflict settings that increase the risk of gender-based violence. Many girls continue to be infected with HIV/AIDS, and too few girls have the education or skills they need to participate fully in the economies of their countries. The strategy lays out a path forward for U.S. development and diplomacy that directly impact the lives of adolescent girls, showing how important their lives are to a prosperous world.

Key Health Dates

April 7	World Health Day - #WHD2016
April 22	Earth Day - #EarthDay #EarthDay2016
April 24-30	<u>World Immunization Week</u> - #immunizationweek
April 25	<u>World Malaria Day</u> - #WorldMalariaDay #DefeatMalaria
May 8	Mother's Day (U.S.)
May 31	<u>World No-Tobacco Day</u> - #WorldNoTobaccoDay
June 5	World Environment Day- #EnvironmentDay

[About the Office of Global Health Diplomacy \(GHD\)](#)

GHD was established in February 2012 as a result of the Quadrennial Diplomacy and Development Review (QDDR). GHD is mandated to provide support for Ambassadors and their Missions to further U.S. government global health programs. GHD serves as a public diplomacy and information resource for the Department of State. In February 2015, GHD became part of the Office of the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator (S/GAC). Email us at: GHD@state.gov.